



Vol. 53 No. 23

June 15, 2007

Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Job search

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is hosting a job search class from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday. To register, call Ext. 5407.

Father's Day

The La Bella Vista Club is hosting a Father's Day brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information or for reservations, call Ext. 4303.

Civilian personnel

The Civilian Personnel Flight has moved to Bldg. 600 in Area E. The flight can be reached at extensions 7291, 7307, 4057, and 4058. Those needing urgent help, can contact Bessie Edwards, civilian personnel officer, at 335-103-0487 or 347-085-6340.

Additionally, the classification section has merged with the Manpower and Organizational Flight. For classification assistance, call Allison Wray at Ext. 4042.

Open mic

The Community Center is hosting an open mic night from 10 p.m. to midnight June 23.

New medical squadron activated

By Staff Sgt.
Colleen Wieman
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 31st Fighter Wing activated a new medical squadron during an assumption of command ceremony here June 8.

Lt. Col. Penelope Gorsuch assumed command of the 31st Surgical Operations Squadron, or 31st MSGS, at a ceremony in front of the Medical Treatment Facility.

Col. Michael Schaffrinna, 31st Medical Group commander, said the new squadron was activated because the flight path for the Air Force Medical Service has changed.

The new squadron was created to better focus on providing specialized inpatient care. The streamlined service administers surgical services, orthopedics, obstetrician/gynecological and other inpatient care.

To complete its mission, the 31st Medical Group personnel were reorganized. The squadron is made up of personnel from the operating room, anesthesia, same-day surgical unit, multiservice



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Col. Michael Schaffrinna, 31st Medical Group commander, hands command of the 31st Surgical Operations Squadron to Lt. Col. Penelope Gorsuch during an assumption of command ceremony June 8. The 31st MSGS was activated to provide specialized inpatient healthcare.

inpatient unit, OB/GYN, general surgery, orthopedics and the ear, nose and throat clinics.

"This squadron contributes great talent to this

wing and to the fight," Colonel Gorsuch said. "The sophistication of health care requires this organization to continually improve for our patients."

Wild west: The La Bella Vista Club is hosting a Wild West membership night from 6 to 9 p.m. June 22. For more information, call Ext. 4303.

*World's Finest
MMVA/DUI counter*

6 days ...

Since Aviano's last DUI.

85 ...

Major Motor Vehicle Accidents



Dust covered

Travel to southern Italy to see the well-preserved people and remains of the destroyed city of Pompeii.



Martial skills

Aviano's Kuk Sool Won competed in the European championship June 1-2 in Lowestoft, England.



Vigileer
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Deadline info: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

Editorials: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with the community. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public.

World's Finest: Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

From the Top: Those Who Lead

U.S. Air Force

Importance of physical fitness

Our mission requires us to be physically fit. Being fit can prove to be the deciding factor between life and death for Airmen and their fellow Wingmen when combat actions require extreme physical exertion. Airmen must constantly hone their physical abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat.

It's been more than three years since the current fitness program was implemented. I am pleased with the progress our Airmen have made.

Physical fitness has truly become a part of our warrior ethos. Fitness facility use across the Air Force is up, and everywhere I travel I see Airmen participating in unit-led and individual physical training programs.

I applaud our Airmen who realize the importance of peak physical fitness. However, I realize there are also Airmen who are not living up to their health and fitness potential. With every Airman critical to completion of Air Force air, space and cyberspace missions; we need all Airmen physically capable of performing at the highest level.

Maintaining physical fitness and dress and appearance standards are individual responsibilities. Air Force fitness standards must be maintained, and compliance with these standards may soon be documented on Air Force performance reports. As with any area where Airmen don't meet the established standards, failure to meet physical fitness standards can result in a referral performance report.

While working to improve fitness levels,

it's important to realize that passing the annual fitness test is not the Air Force fitness goal. Training to the test won't help as much as a mix of cardiovascular, muscular and flexibility training. To successfully boost fitness levels, we must all make regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle a part of our daily regimen.

The benefits of a fitter force extend beyond individual fulfillment. The Air Force spent \$3.9 billion on health care last year. By improving overall Airmen fitness levels, we can decrease these health care expenditures and keep our Airmen out of medical treatment facilities and on the job.

I encourage you to establish personal fitness goals as you participate in unit and individual-based physical training programs and provide assistance to those needing encouragement. The rewards will be obvious and beneficial to all.



Rodney J. McKinley
RODNEY J. MCKINLEY
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

Aviano Volunteers of the Week

Name: Abigail Figiera

Why nominated: Mrs. Figiera is a full time mother to a 2-year-old. She is the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron key spouse advisor and has helped spouses through Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations. Recently she designed the Aviano Air Show logo and tickets saving the wing \$1,000.



Name: Jody Herrick

Why nominated: Mrs. Herrick consistently volunteers six hours twice a week at the Medical Treatment Facility. Stepping up to the plate, Mrs. Herrick has assisted with several medical examinations and has prepared materials for all childbirth classes.

Retired Aviano colonel given knightly title

**By Staff Sgt.
Colleen Wieman
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

He doesn't feel like a knight, but one retired Aviano colonel has been named one.

Gary LaGassey, U.S. Air Forces Europe Southern region international relations chief, was presented the decoration of Cavaliere, or Knight, of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy during a ceremony in the Province of Pordenone June 2.

The Cavaliere of the Order of Merit is one of the knight appointments people may receive in Italy. Mr. LaGassey is the only non-Italian out of 41 other people with this title.

Mr. LaGassey was recommended for the title by the Pordenone Prefect. The decree was approved by the Italian president at the end of December 2006.

"I am proud and hon-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman

Gary LaGassey, U.S. Air Forces Europe Southern region international relations chief, holds his decree naming him Cavaliere of the Order of Merit. The retired colonel received this knightly title on Italian Republic Day, June 2.

ored," Mr. LaGassey said.

Mr. LaGassey, who arrived here in 1995 as the 31st Mission Support Group

commander has spent many years improving Italian-American relations including taking over the Aviano 2000

project in February 1999.

He was given the title of Cavaliere for his good works in his role in the Aviano 2000 program.

According to the nomination letter, Mr. LaGassey executed the Aviano 2000 program with care, dedication and the public interest at heart. He worked with local authorities and responsible agencies to create partnerships within the community and the program created employment opportunities for the local population and local and regional contractors.

"People with this title have committed their souls to volunteering and improving society," Mr. LaGassey said. "These people come from every walk of life. I'm proud to be a part of this group and want to continue to promote U.S. and Italian relationships."

For more information on the title cavalieri, visit <http://www.societacavalieri.org/>.

Thrift shop: The Aviano Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For more info, call Ext. 5402.

Crime in the local area

Courtesy of the 31st Security Forces Squadron

As you have seen in the last few weeks there is a recurring trend – unsecured items being stolen. Secure your vehicle, place valuables out of sight and safeguard your personal items.

May 29 – A staff sergeant set his wallet on the bar at the Rox Bar in Rome. He turned his head and when he turned back around his wallet was gone. The thief ran off with his Common Access Card, drivers license, AFI license, social security card, debit cards and €250. *Watch for the AFN commercial on this exact scenario!*

May 29 – An individual discovered an unknown person making unauthorized calls on a government phone. The phone was retrieved with a missing chip. When the number was called, a female answered but did not identify herself.

The chip was deactivated. *Pay close attention to your phone bills and make sure the billing or charges are accurate.*

May 29 – A civilian placed her iPod in her friend's purse while at the library. The purse was left unattended and was later discovered without the iPod. *Leaving your valuables unattended is an invitation for some sticky fingers.*

May 30 – An elderly woman approached a civilian's door asking for money. He refused and she continued to ask. Finally the woman departed with a dirty look and marked an "X" on the individual's mailbox. *An "X" is a known Gypsy symbol for planned theft or robbery. If you encounter an event like this, please contact security forces or carabinieri immediately.*

June 2 – A family member stopped at an auto grill in Milan and noticed two females staring at her. When she went

to the counter to pay for items she noticed her wallet, ID card, debit card and €150 was missing out of her purse. *It goes to show, you can be holding on to your purse but if you are not careful something may still come up missing.*

June 3 – An individual reported two unknown individuals on motorcycles were riding on the farm road near the west side perimeter fence. The individual reported the motorcycles had cargo and maps secured to the back of the motorcycles. *If you witness suspicious activity, please report it immediately.*

June 3 – A technical sergeant's family member rode her bike and left it unsecured outside the Dragon Fitness Center. When she returned the bike was missing. *If you are going to park your bike anywhere, even on base, lock it up.*

To report suspicious activity, call the law enforcement desk at Ext. 7200.

First AF combat action medals awarded

By Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
*Secretary of the Air Force Office
of Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley awarded six Airmen the Air Force Combat Action Medal during a ceremony June 12 at the Air Force Memorial. These Airmen were the first in the Air Force to receive the new medal.

The medal was created to recognize Air Force members who were engaged in air or ground combat off base in a combat zone. This includes members who were under direct and hostile fire, or who personally engaged hostile forces with direct and lethal fire.

“As we thought about the 700,000 (Total Force) Airmen out there today who epitomize the warrior ethos while in combat on the ground or in the air, we began to think through this notion of a combat action ribbon that is part of our culture and our heritage,” said General Moseley. “We believe our Airmen know this and understand this, and live it daily through their actions.

“In fact, since that awful day in September 2001, we’ve seen a dramatic increase in the number of Airmen engaged with or engaging hostile forces during performance of their duties, many of them on the surface, outside the wire, in nontraditional roles for Airmen,” the general said. “We wanted an award to serve as an outward and visible reminder that combat is a fundamental part of being an Airman. And we wanted an Air Force-specific award for Airmen to wear proudly on their uniforms.”

The medal’s design is one of a kind, General Moseley said. It is the only American award with a diagonal stripe. The



design was inspired by a personal insignia Brig. Gen. William “Billy” Mitchell had painted on the aircraft he flew over the St. Mihiel, (France) in September 1918. He flew the aircraft while developing plans for what would become the first major American offensive in World War I.

“(General Mitchell’s) legacy is manifested in today’s Air Force in so many ways, not the least of which is this new medal,” said General Moseley. “This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of his most important legacy ... the creation of the U.S. Air Force as an independent service.”

Members of General Mitchell’s family were present for the ceremony. General Moseley presented General Mitchell’s grandson, Tom Gilpin, with a shadow box commemorating General Mitchell’s service and influence on the medal.

“While much has been said about my

grandfather’s unique life and limitless dedication to the advancement of air power, today highlights the loyalty he had to his fellow Airmen, his Air Force family,” said Mr. Gilpin.

“My grandfather was the original Air Force wingman,” he said. “Today, it’s an honor to be a part of the profound connection between the heritage bestowed by my grandfather and these amazing Airmen who have continued his boldness and his courage. I know he would be pleased by the Air Force Combat Action Medal as it symbolizes so well what he stood for: facing adversity with conviction and never backing down.”

General Moseley also recognized Susan Gamble, a professional artist and master designer for the U.S. Mint – and the wife of Air Force Col. Mike Gamble – who completed the design of the medal, in conjunction with the Army Institute of Heraldry.

“(Ms. Gamble) transformed a rough sketch into the Air Force Combat Action Medal ... This magnificent creation serves as an enduring link to our heritage and our culture,” said General Moseley. “It will forever remind us of American air power pioneers, and the courage of conviction they had, ultimately forging the Air Force into an independent service 60 years ago.

“(The medal) ties the Airmen of today engaged with enemy hostiles ... to the legacy of courage, valor, service and sacrifice that our predecessors left us,” he said. “These Airmen, like all Airmen, stand on the shoulders of giants such as Billy Mitchell, (Henry “Hap”) Arnold, (Claire) Chennault, (James) Doolittle, (Curtis) LeMay and (Bernard) Schriever,” said the general. “Today we recognize these six amazing Airmen for their combat roles as warriors wielding the air power bequeathed to us by these giants.”

MGIB: Airmen can make additional Montgomery GI Bill contributions to increase their benefit. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Final flight

Col. Scott Zobrist, former 31st Operations Group commander, completes his final flight as part of the 31st Fighter Wing Monday. Colonel Zobrist relinquished command to Col. Thomas Gould Thursday during a ceremony in Hangar One.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome Baymore



Photo by Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman

Survivor

'Survivor' cast member Becky Lee signs an autograph Monday at the base exchange. As part of Extreme Summer, Ms. Lee visited Aviano Monday, participating in the 5K run and having lunch with Airmen.

Tricare Web site redesigned

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Getting information is going to get easier for the 9.1 million Tricare beneficiaries. Soon they will be able to access Tricare information tailored for them through the new My Benefits portal.

In addition to simplified navigation, beneficiaries will be able to compare plans and get detailed information on services covered by Tricare.

The improved portal also allows beneficiaries to print content easily, as well as save multiple sections of content into a single document, in what might be called a personalized Tricare handbook or E-book. With just a few clicks, beneficiaries can quickly find all the information they need about their health care benefit.

"It is important for us to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, and making sure we communicate with them clearly is a top priority," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, Tricare Management Activity deputy director. "The site redesign saves time and gives beneficiaries up-to-date information."

Results of an online survey

revealed that visitors to the original Tricare Web site were overwhelmed by the amount of content and complexity of the Tricare benefit. Users expressed frustration with surfing through the numerous benefit options and content redundancies.

"Because of the feedback," said General Granger, "We redesigned the site and beneficiaries participated in the process through hands-on testing of the new features."

Upon entering the My Benefits portal, beneficiaries will answer a few questions about themselves including their military status, where they live and their Tricare health plan. By answering these three questions, content is tailored to meet their needs.

Beneficiaries will no longer have to wade through pages of content to find the information that pertains to them. If beneficiaries aren't sure about their Tricare plan, the Plan Wizard, one of the revamped site's new features, shows them the plans for which they may be eligible.

For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/>.

Child abuse prevention: For information on child abuse prevention and warning signs, call Family Advocacy at Ext. 5667.

Aviano Airmen must recycle

By Capt, Jeffrey Lin
31st Civil Engineer Squadron
base environmental officer

Aviano has received new trash bins designed for glass, cans, plastics, paper, cardboard, wet waste and mixed dry waste. Depending on work areas, people may have some or all of the types of bins.

Not disposing trash in the appropriate bin will result in monetary penalties to the base.

Wet waste is the most critical. If food products are disposed of in the paper bin, then the entire bin is considered wet waste.

In Italy, recycling is required by law and not complying may result in fines.

At home, separate trash in accordance with community rules. Each community in the region has different recycling requirements.

To find out what the requirements are for your community, visit the Aviano Intranet at https://avointranet/CivilEngineering/cev/cev_web_page.html.

It is important that trash is deposited in the appropriate receptacles in local communities. People should not bring their home trash to the base for disposal.

Disposing trash on base causes the government to pay twice to dispose of trash since they pay for Airmen's trash to be disposed in the community. Also, disposing trash on base may result in disciplinary actions.

If the base recycles properly, Airmen can reap cost savings which will go back to the base to fund other priorities.

For more information, call the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron environmental office at Ext. 5394.



Courtesy Photo

When recycling on or off base, ensure the waste is disposed in the proper receptacle.

HAWC re-opens at flightline facility

**By Staff Sgt.
Colleen Wieman**
*31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs*

The Aviano Health and Wellness Center is scheduled to relocate and reopen in late June adjacent from Banca Popolare in Area F.

The HAWC staff was forced to relocate nearly a year ago when the HAWC and its exterior overhead parking areas were destroyed by a thunderstorm with wind speed registered at 82 knots. The high winds ripped a portion of the roof off the facility and caused extensive damage to vehicles parked nearby.

The upcoming relocation is to the same facility destroyed June 29, 2006, but has since undergone extensive repairs. During the reconstruction, the HAWC staff was relocated to the Aviano Medical Treatment Facility so they could continue supporting the mission.

"At the MTF, we were doing the best we could with what we had," said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Israel, HAWC physical therapy NCOIC. He said it took a lot of moving around and coordination with other agencies for classroom and treatment space to minimize the loss in services provided to the base.

The new facility will have some "awesome things such as new equipment and aqua massage and will allow the HAWC staff to better serve its customers," said Sergeant Israel. The wing's Drug Demand Reduction Program office is also relocating to the HAWC.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman

After nearly a year, Aviano's Health and Wellness Center has been repaired. The HAWC staff will be able to return to their original facility on the flightline at the end of this month. The facility will have new equipment and all health and wellness courses will be held in the facility.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Above, Left: The June 29, 2006, severe thunderstorm left Aviano's Health and Wellness Center in shambles. The roof collapsed and cars parked near the building were crushed by debris. After the collapse, the building was off limits while it was being repaired.

Avoid a shocking day

Summer weather announcements explained

By Capt. Chad Little
31st Operations Support
Squadron weather flight

Now that the wing has entered the 101 Critical Days of Summer and started to enjoy all the outdoor activities, one important safety consideration to factor in is the weather.

Airmen are reminded weekly at roll calls how dangerous the roads can be after the rain, but it's not very often that the dangers of lightning are discussed.

The spring and summer seasons at Aviano typically bring beautiful weather but also bring afternoon thunderstorms. Typical summer days can start with clear blue skies in the morning making people think their afternoon will have no weather issues.

However, as the day progresses more clouds could develop, especially over the mountains. As clouds build higher and higher, they become darker and darker and can slowly begin to hide the sunshine that was promising hours earlier.

Not long after that people hear Aviano's giant voice warning of thunderstorms or lightning watches or warnings.

These announcements are a combined effort between the 31st Operations Support Squadron weather flight, the 31st Fighter Wing command post and 21st Operational Weather Squadron at Sembach, Germany, which is Aviano's regional weather center.

These announcements are made for everyone's safety especially those working or participating in an outdoor activity.

During the spring and summer season, Aviano members will mainly hear three weather announcements.

The following is an explanation of each announcement and actions people should take:



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nathan Doza

Aviano's weather tends to change often during the spring and summer months. People should always heed on base weather advisories from the giant voice.

- **Lightning watch for the potential of lightning within five miles of Aviano:** This notification is to inform the community that conditions are favorable for the development of thunderstorms and lightning. Lightning has not been observed within five miles of the flightline, but the potential for lightning exists.

People should evaluate the necessity of working outdoors and scan the location for possible areas to take cover, if a warning is issued. They should also monitor the clouds and if they look dark, chances are lightning will follow.

- **Thunderstorm advisory for observed thunderstorms within 10 miles of Aviano:** This notification is to let the base know the weather flight has identified a thunderstorm with lightning within 10 miles of the center of the flightline. Depending on the location of the storm, this means that a lightning watch or warning could be issued soon. People should prepare for the possible issuance of lightning watches and warnings.

- **Lightning warning for lightning observed within five miles of Aviano:** This is the most serious notification. When people hear this announcement, it means the weather flight has detected lightning on a lightning detector or observed it within five miles of the flightline. Typically people should cease outdoor activities and find cover unless mission requirements demand or require other actions.

Lightning can strike anything within a five- to 10-mile radius. The danger for lightning exists at least 15 minutes after the last strike, so expect the warning to be active at least 15 minutes before cancelled.

With each announcement, people working outside should check with their work centers for procedures on specific actions regarding resources and personnel. Weather action procedures should be reviewed annually and discussed in the work center.

Late afternoon thunderstorms are a consequence of living here, however with planning and awareness people can enjoy their day.

Summer dance

Aviano Youth Programs are offering summer dance classes for youth ages 4 and older. The classes are from July 2 to Aug. 24 and include ballet, jazz and Broadway.

Parents can register their children from noon to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at the youth center. Space is limited. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

Camp

Aviano Youth Programs is accepting registrations for summer camp. Camps offered include magic, soccer, cheer and Missoula Children's Theater. Space is limited. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

Aviano 5/6

The next Aviano 5/6 meeting is 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Professional Development Center. The meeting is open to all E-5s and E-6s. For more information, call Ext. 4376.

Lil' Bambino

The Lil' Bambino playgroup is hosting a water party and a potluck luncheon from

10 a.m. to noon June 27 in Area D. Pools, sprinklers and water games are available for children 5 and younger.

To sign up for the event and contribute a dish, e-mail lilbambino@hotmail.com.

Additionally, Lil' Bambino meets at Freedom Park from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. For more information, visit www.lilbambino.com.

University of Phoenix

New University of Phoenix students will save \$200 if they enroll in June. For more information, call Ext. 5139 or e-mail Tara Carlsrud at tara.carlsrud@phoenix.edu.

Heritage

The Aviano Native American Heritage committee is seeking volunteers to help in the planning of November's events. The committee will meet once a month for event planning. To volunteer, contact Master Sgt. Timothy Garcia at Ext. 7478 or timothy.garcia@aviano.af.mil.

Talent show

The community center is hosting an adult talent show at 7 p.m. July 20. People who

Chapel service schedule

Saturday

The following services are held at the base chapel:

11 a.m. – Seventh Day

Adventist

5:30 p.m. – Catholic Mass

Sunday

The following services are held at the base chapel:

8:30 a.m. – Liturgical service

10 a.m. – Contemporary service

11:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass

4:30 p.m. – Church of Christ

The following services are held at various locations:

8:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass at the Italian chapel

10 a.m. – Gospel service at the Mass Briefing Facility

Daily Mass is held at noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the base chapel and at the Italian chapel on Fridays.

would like to perform can pick up a registration packet at the Community Center. Deadline for registration is July 10. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Country concert

Chely Wright will perform a country concert at 7 p.m. July 27 in Hangar One. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Equality day

The Women's Equality Day committee is seeking volunteers to help with events. The day is August 26, which was the day in 1920 when the 19th Amendment was ratified granting women the right to vote.

To join the committee, contact Master Sgt. Tracie Adams at Ext. 7926 or e-mail her at tracie.adams@aviano.af.mil.

Self help

The 31st Civil Engineer Squadron Self Help store is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

SOAR

The Scholarship for Outstanding Airmen to Reserve Officer Training Corps or SOAR is open to students in any major. The program allows winners to separate from active duty to accept this scholarship and after graduation, Airmen are commissioned and returned to active duty for at least four years.

Airmen interested in

SOAR must meet the following eligibility requirements: be a U.S. citizen, be recommended by their commander, be younger than age 31 by Dec. 31 of the year they will graduate, have between one-to-six years time in service by Oct. 15, score 15 or higher on the verbal and 10 or higher on the quantitative portions of the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test, have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, complete at least 24 semester hours or have acceptable ACT or SAT scores and have a nomination letter signed by the wing commander.

SOAR packages must be sent to the Ramstein Air Base, Germany, education center by Sept. 1. For more information, contact the Aviano education center at Ext. 5330.

Yard sales

Under Italian law, holding a yard or garage sale is an illegal activity for anyone currently residing in Italy under a "missione" visa.

People under this visa enjoy a tax-free status on household or personal items shipped to Italy or bought from the base exchange. These items cannot be sold into the local economy without appropriate taxes being paid.

Additionally, a garage sale would be a business activity, which people with a "missione" visa are not authorized to participate in the Italian economy. For more information, call the legal office at Ext. 7843.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. – "Mr. Brooks" Rated R – A successful businessman, devoted husband and father has a secret – he's a serial killer. As he commits another murder, a photographer witnesses the crime. Now the businessman is hunted by a detective while the photographer is blackmailing him. Starring: Kevin Costner, William Hurt

Saturday, 2 p.m. – "Firehouse Dog" Rated PG – A Hollywood celebrity canine is presumed dead when a commercial stunt goes awry. The dog wakes up and finds himself alone in an unfamiliar city. Chased by animal control, the dog takes refuge in abandoned lofts. Starring: Josh Hutcherson, Bree Turner

Saturday, 7 p.m. – "Mr. Brooks" Rated R

Sunday, 7 p.m. – "Are We Done Yet?" Rated PG – A home renovation leads to chaos when a contractor bonds with a father's wife and two kids. Starring: Ice Cube, Nia Long

Wednesday, 7 p.m. – "The Reaping" Rated R – A former minister who does missionary work in Sudan is sought after strange occurrences happen in a nearby village. She comes to learn that sometimes miracles can be dangerous and the line between faith and superstition is thin. Starring: Hilary Swank, AnnaSophia Robb

Thursday, 7 p.m. – "Are We Done Yet?" Rated PG

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local events

- A wine festival featuring wine tasting, food stands and street entertainment is today through Sunday in Monfalcone. For more information, visit <http://www.monfalcone.info>.

- A wine festival is today through Sunday in Lignano Riviera. For more information, visit www.festivaldei-vini.it.

- A biker festival is Thursday to June 24 in Zuglio, Mount Zoncolan, in the Udine Province. The festival will host a U.S. car show June 24. For more information, visit www.biker-fest.com.

For more information on events in the local area, call Ext. 7555.

Counterfeit money

Some people traveling from countries such as Romania and Bulgaria have received counterfeit \$100 bills. People are encouraged to ask for smaller bills when making transactions.

To avoid counterfeit bills, ensure the bill has security features. The features include a security strip visible when the bill is held up to the light, Benjamin Franklin's eyes should show depth perception, the "100" should change from green to yellow when the bill is tilted, detail of the front of Liberty Hall should be present and the clock on Liberty Hall should read 2:23.

Pompeii teaches visitors first century life

By Staff Sgt. Colleen Wieman
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The people of Pompeii didn't know Mount Vesuvius was a volcano until it erupted in 79 A.D., leading to their demise.

What once was a bustling city is now a popular tourist attraction for international travelers visiting southern Italy.

Despite Pompeii and its sister city, Herculaneum, being destroyed by the layer of burning ash on that fateful day, travelers who frequent the streets of Pompeii today can see a well-preserved city and the frozen remains of the people who tried to prevent breathing the poisonous gases.

Located near Naples, Pompeii's ruins are extensive. Visitors can walk through ruined businesses and homes and get a vision of what life was like for the Pompeians.

A key ruin to visit is the gymnasium where visitors can see an ancient swimming pool, exercise yard, male and female changing rooms and steam room. Inside the male changing room, visitors can see the original marble that decorated the room and a petrified local frozen in the position he died.

Another great ruin to visit is the old foro. From the foro, visitors can see Mount Vesuvius and check out pottery and other finds discovered while unearthing the city.

Since the streets and buildings are relatively intact and only missing a few walls,



Photos by Alex Wieman

Above: An ancient Pompeii local is preserved in the position he died.

Below: Mount Vesuvius looms over Pompeii's ruined foro.

visitors can wander the ghost-like streets and really get a feel for a prosperous ancient port city.

For more Pompeii tourist information including a map of the ruins, visit www.pompeisites.org/.



Travel Web site: Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe.



Photo by Capt. Nicole Dubnicay

See wildlife up close when ITT takes a trip to the **Parco Zoo Natura Viva and Auto Safari** June 23.

14 June 15, 2007

Information, Tickets and Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- June 23 – Pisa and Pinocchio park
 - June 23 – Lake Como and Villa Carlota
 - June 30 – Guided Milan and Last Supper museum
 - June 30 – Aqualandia water park
- ITT escorts ensure the group arrives

and departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because most tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

KSW competes in championship



Three-time grand champion Dylan Mejia performs the sword form for a gold medal at the European championships. Dylan is one of Aviano's junior black belt instructors.

Kuk Sool Won classes are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for children and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for adults in the Aviano Elementary School gym. For more information on Aviano's KSW, visit www.kuksoolwonitaly.com.



Photos courtesy Aviano Kuk Sool Wan

White belt Ariel Niznik performs her first level form during the Kuk Sool Wan European Championship June 1-2 at Lowestoft, England.



Above: Black-brown belt Kevin Reed performs an advance level form during the European championships.

Left: Amado Garcia demonstrates defense techniques during the championship. At the championship, Garcia was promoted to the rank of fourth degree. The fourth degree usually takes 20 years, but Garcia achieved it in 14. Another KSW member, Kat Genetti, was promoted to first degree black belt.



Fly Bys

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners host a Volksmarch at 7:45 a.m. Sunday. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in the Roveredo Square and heads to Lestans di Sequals. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Bowling dads

The bowling center is hosting a Father's Day special Sunday. Dads bowl for free and the cost for everyone else is \$.50 per game and \$.50 for shoes. For more information, call Ext. 7487.

Father's Day golf

The Alpine Golf Course is hosting a Father's Day special Sunday. Dads can golf an 18 hole green fee for \$1 or rent a cart for \$1. For more information, call Ext. 7386.

Yoga

The community center hosts yoga classes from 4 to 5 p.m., 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is \$25 per month and all fitness levels are welcome. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Summer strike

The bowling center is hosting Summer Strike Force July 1 through July 31. People can pick up a punch card and win different prizes.

Punches come from bowling a game or buying a beverage and 10 punches enters people into monthly prize drawings. Participants can also enter to win \$250 or \$500. For more information, call Ext. 7487.

Base pool

The pool is open for the season. Passes are available at outdoor recreation. For complete hours of operation, visit www.31svs-aviano.com.

Freedom and the pursuit of happiness

By Maura Sillas

F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.
Military Equal Opportunity chief

Dr. Samuel Johnson, in his 1759 novel, *Rasselas* coined the phrase "Pursuit of Happiness."

It wasn't until 17 years later that this phrase was recognized and became world renowned when Thomas Jefferson wrote these words in the Declaration of Independence. Life...Liberty...Pursuit of Happiness. Did this phrase apply to all men and women during this time period?

The history of slavery began soon after Europeans settled on this land. The largest slave trade came from Africa. The number of slaves who died on the voyage and who were traded became so phenomenal that there is no accurate count; however, we do know that the Census recorded four million slaves by 1860.

Four million men, women, and children were denied freedom; many forced to work in brutal and inhumane conditions and were legally beaten and whipped by their owners.

Although these slaves were considered less of a human being, they had the right to pursue happiness ... and so they did. They became educated, revolted, and fought for their freedom.

Soon, slavery was known to be economically inefficient, and was a deterrent to the long-term modernization of America. Many states began abolishing

“ People of all races and nationalities celebrate Juneteenth to not only recognize the eradication of slavery, but to fellowship and build stronger families ... ”

slavery. By 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves free in the Confederate States of America.

Texas was the last Confederate State to abolish slavery. There have been many explanations why that became so. One story was of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. A second story was that the news was withheld by enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. A third story was that federal troops waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one more harvest before enforcing the proclamation.

Which ever reason is true, it took over two years and the end of the Civil War for General Gordon Granger and his regiment to build enough force to overcome the resistance in Galveston, Texas.

The day Texas abolished slavery was June 19, 1865. This day seemed surreal as thousands of slaves, overjoyed with exhilaration, walked away from their owners as free men and women. Even though the slaves had nowhere to go, leaving the plantation was considered the first step to freedom and the pursuit

of happiness.

June 19 was coined "Juneteenth," in honor of this great moment in history. People of all races and nationalities celebrate Juneteenth to not only recognize the eradication of slavery, but to fellowship and build stronger families within each community.

The Emancipation Proclamation, 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendment, Executive Order 9981, Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was later resigned by President George W. Bush in 2006 shows a timeline that defines the struggles and achievements of all who liberate minorities.

Was Thomas Jefferson referring to all men and women when he wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness?"

Looking at the events throughout history, I would have to say Americans do have the right to pursue the prodigy of life through freedom. The Juneteenth Celebration is one event that signifies the day that all minorities realized that through dedication and determination; anyone can aspire towards life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Fred Thompson, 31st Maintenance Squadron, for his outstanding completion of his Career Development Course.

• Congratulations to Joshua Blanco, Aviano High School senior, for winning the 2007 Law Day essay competition. Joshua received a certificate of appreciation and a \$25 Army Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate.

Young collectors

Congratulations to Mrs. Vergeldt's kindergarten class for collecting the most 'Box Tops for Education' labels at the Aviano Elementary School.

The students collected 2,904 box tops and for their hard work, they celebrated with a pizza party. Overall, the elementary school collected 19,718 box tops this year.



Courtesy photo